BOARD LETTER – SUMMARY SHEET HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CLUSTER

AGENDA REVIEW	9/17/2014
BOARD MEETING	9/30/2014
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT	All
DEPARTMENT	Mental Health
SUBJECT	Request approval to increase the contracted hourly rates for existing Locum Tenens contractors who place temporary psychiatrists in directly-operated mental health programs throughout Los Angeles County during periods of critical psychiatrist staffing shortage.
PROGRAM	Office of Medical Director (OMD)
DEADLINES	N/A
COST & FUNDING	
	The rate increase for the Temporary Psychiatrists Services Agreement will range from \$200.00 to \$225.00 per hour. The rate increase is funded by State and Federal revenue generated by the temporary psychiatrists based on mental health services provided to clients eligible for Medi-Cal and receiving State MHSA funding.
PURPOSE OF REQUEST	Board authorization to increase the contracted rates for Temporary Psychiatrist Services Agreements for Fiscal Year 2014-15 through 2016-17.
SUMMARY/ ISSUES (Briefly summarize program and potential issues or concerns. Identify changes, if any, to level of funding or staffing; how funding will be utilized and why best use; prior accomplishments; and for BLs involving contracts, also note changes to the contract term.)	Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health (Director), or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute amendments to existing Temporary Psychiatrist Services Agreements (Agreements) with the eight Locum Tenens (LT) contractors listed in Attachment II. The Amendment, substantially similar to Attachment I, will increase the contracted hourly rates to \$200 for general psychiatrists and \$225 for child and adolescent psychiatrists and general psychiatrists placed at two hard-to-recruit sites, Antelope Valley Mental Health Services and Palmdale Mental Health Clinic. Additionally the Amendment updates the description of services provided by the temporary psychiatrists. Funding for the increased contracted rates is derived from revenue generated by the services provided by the temporary psychiatrists. This Amendment will be effective upon on Board Approval, through June 30, 2017. Board approval is required to authorize DMH to increase LT contractor rates to a more competitive amount for the provision of temporary psychiatrists throughout Los Angeles County. In consideration for the increase, the amendment will also update Exhibit A (Description of Services) by strengthening independent contractors' professional qualifications requirements and Exhibit B (Billing, Payment, and Schedule of Rates) by no longer obligating County to pay LT contractors for late invoices in excess of submission within the required 30 days from the end of the month when services were rendered. Without Board approval of this amendment, Los Angeles County will continue to experience a severe hardship in recruiting temporary psychiatrists expediently when there are psychiatrist vacancies. This would negatively impact access to essential psychiatric care for Los Angeles County residents.
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